MARVEL

11

LGY#636

CANTWELL
UNZUETA
D'ARMATA

IRON MAN

Korvac, resurrected in an android body, seeks to boost his powers to godlike levels by stealing cosmic energies from *Taa II*, Galactus' worldship. Iron Man assembled an eclectic team of heroes, including Hellcat, to pursue him off-planet. While en route in space, Iron Man was mysteriously teleported away to an alien planet inhabited by individuals from across the galaxy. There they have managed to form a peaceful community overseen by Tony's old foe the Stilt-Man. But their tranquil existence is threatened by the planet's native inhabitants--a band of rampaging Ultimos! Tony has pledged to protect his new compatriots, even as he's grown addicted to the morphine drip built into his suit, meant to help heal him from his recent injuries at Korvac's hands.

WALKING AWAY FROM OMELAS

IRON MAN

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YAR, YOU GAVE SO *MUCH* OF YOURSELF TO THIS PLACE. OUR *HOME*. AND NOW YOU'VE GIVEN YOUR *LIFE* FOR IT.

AND WITH YOU GO *OTHERS* WHO ALSO CALLED THIS PLACE HOME. WE'LL MISS YOU. *EVERY ONE* OF YOU.

AVRO--COLIN. SORRY AGAIN THAT WE LOST 'EM...

IT'S OKAY, TONY. THEY *FOUGHT*. WE ALL DID. INCLUDING *YOU*.

HOW MANY... HAVE DIED HERE? IN THE, UH...IN THE COLONY?

TOO MANY.

WHAT ABOUT ATTACKING THE SOURCE? WHATEVER'S POWERING AND SUSTAINING THOSE ULTIMO THINGS?

LOOK AROUND, *EH*? WE BARELY HAVE ENOUGH *FOOD*. WE CAN'T LAUNCH SOME FULL-FLEDGED *CAMPAIGN*.

STILL... MAYBE YOU AND I COULD CHECK OUT THE WRECKAGE OF THE ROBOT LATER. SEE IF--

FORGET IT-- IT'S ALREADY BEING MELTED DOWN FOR BETTER USE. NOW *C'MON*. I FEEL LIKE RAISIN' A DRINK TO THE *FALLEN*.

"MELTED DOWN"...?

YOU ALL RIGHT, TONY?

ON EARTH, I UNDERSTOOD THE **RULES**. I'M **IRON MAN**. YOU'RE **STILT-MAN**. WE **FIGHT**.

BUT THIS PLACE IS...YA KNOW... **DIFFERENT**. **PARADISE**... KIND OF. STILL...I ALWAYS HAVE TROUBLE WITH **INNOCENT PEOPLE** GETTING KILLED...

I KNOW.

YOU'VE BUILT SOMETHING... **AMAZING** HERE, WILBUR. UNIQUE. SO WHY NOT TRY TO STAMP OUT THIS LAST **TERRIBLE** PART OF IT...ONCE AND FOR ALL?

I MEAN... "GREAT PLACE EXCEPT FOR **KILLER ROBOTS**" ISN'T A VERY GOOD TRAVEL BROCHURE, RIGHT...?

YOU THINK I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THAT *EVERY* DAY?

BUT THE PEOPLE HERE, THEY'RE NOT LIKE YOU AND ME. WE'RE LUCKY TO EVEN HAVE AVRO-X. WE'RE REAL *FIGHTERS.* THEY'RE *NOT.*

AND I'M NOT GOING TO ASK THEM TO GO HEADLONG INTO *BATTLE* AND GET THEMSELVES *KILLED.* THE BEST I--*WE*--CAN DO... IS *PROTECT* THEM.

*BUT, WILBUR, GOING AFTER THE ULTIMOS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE... **PICKETT'S CHARGE.** WITH THE RIGHT INFO, YOU COULD GO IN QUIET-LIKE AN' SHUT DOWN THE ENTIRE--*

TONY. FROM WHAT COLIN AND I HAVE APPROXIMATED, THE SOURCE IS NOTHING SHORT OF A *SINGULARITY.* SELF-AUTOMATED. AN *ENDLESS* ASSEMBLY. BUT IT'S ALSO *CONTINENTS* AWAY.

EVEN IF ONE ERRANT MACHINE KNEW OUR *EXACT* LOCATION, IT WOULD TAKE *MONTHS* TO REACH US.

BUT THEY HAVE REACHED YOU. JUST LET ME HELP. I WANNA HELP...

I *DO* WANT YOUR HELP. BUT I THINK WE HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF BEING *RESCUED.* I'VE BEEN WORKING ON A *SIGNALING SYSTEM...*

TOTALLY...THAT MAKES SENSE... BUT ALSO... THIS IS...

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL HOME WE'VE CREATED, YES. EVEN IF BY *ACCIDENT.*

IT'S *FUNNY,* IN A WAY. I THINK THE THREAT OF THE MACHINES IS WHAT KEEPS THE COMMUNITY *BOUND* TOGETHER. NO DISSENT.

*STILL, WILBUR... **KILLER ROBOTS,** MAN. **WITHOUT** THOSE, THIS PLACE COULD...**GROW.** **BUILD** ON THE GREAT IDEAS YOU'VE ALL DISCOVERED.*

TONY, I'M *SINCERELY* ASKING FOR YOUR HELP WITH THE RESCUE SIGNAL. I BET WE COULD HAVE IT WORKING WITHIN WEEKS, IF NOT *DAYS*.

I... OF COURSE. YEAH...

LET'S JOIN THE OTHERS FOR DINNER. WE CAN KEEP TALKING.

STILT-MAN...

IRON MAN.

I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW LITTLE MY LIFE MAKES SENSE TO ME THESE DAYS...

SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY DAREDEVIL WAS *PILE-DRIVING* ME THROUGH A PARKED CAR.* BUT TONIGHT... IT'S BUTTERNUT SQUASH AND WHAT I CAN ONLY DESCRIBE AS "*BIRD-MEAT STEW.*"

*DAREDEVIL #20. --TOM

EXCUSE ME. AREN'T YOU **FORGETTING** SOMETHING?

...PATSY...?

YOU GOT IT, PAL--THIS IS **HELLCAT** CALLING ON THE **MIND PHONE.** CAN I STEAL YOU AWAY FROM THE **BIRD-MEAT STEW** FOR A SECOND?

G'ON AHEAD. I'LL BE IN SOON...

SO, WHAT, YOU'RE BEST BUDS WITH **STILT-MAN** NOW?

HEY, STOP--ARE YOU **READING** MY MIND?

JUST TRYING TO GET UP TO SPEED ON WHAT THE **HECK** YOU'RE DOING.

DON'T DO THAT, PATSY-- IT'S **RUDE.** AN' IF YOU **REALLY** WANT TO TALK, LET'S... GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.

YOU KNOW, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE LIKE THAT... ALL...GLOWY... YOU LOOK GREAT--

I KNOW--I'M SORRY. I GOT CAUGHT UP IN... THE PEOPLE HERE, THEY REALLY... NEED MY HELP.

ONE WORD, TONY-- KORVAC.

THESE PEOPLE FROM THIS PLANET YOU'RE ON--DO THEY EXIST IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE?

YEAH. AT LEAST I THINK SO...

THEN MAYBE YOU CAN HELP THEM BY STOPPING KORVAC BEFORE HE HORRIFICALLY TRANSMOGRIFIES SAID KNOWN UNIVERSE.

LOOK, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I AM--

I KNOW YOU DON'T KNOW THAT--

STOP WITH THE MIND READING! THIS PLACE, IT'S...WELL, IT'S SO...

PERFECT?

YES.

EXCEPT FOR THE ULTIMO MACHINES THAT EAT PEOPLE.

PATSY, C'MON--

TONY, I KNOW YOU'VE TURNED OFF YOUR MORPHINE GOVERNOR. SO LET'S GET REAL.

HOW HIGH ARE YOU RIGHT NOW?

...I'M SORRY.

AND MY ANSWER IS... VERY.

YOU'VE BEEN CARRYING A LOT ON YOUR SHOULDERS. BUT THE THING IS...YOU DON'T *HAVE* TO. NOT *ALONE*. YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED THAT OUT YET, HAVE YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

THE REST OF US HAVE DECIDED TO FACE KORVAC ON *TAA II* ***WITHOUT*** YOU.

NO. PLEASE DON'T. YOU HAVE TO WAIT FOR ME.

WE HAVE A *VISUAL*. WE MANAGED TO BEAT KORVAC HERE, AND WE *CAN'T* MISS THE CHANCE TO GET THE JUMP ON HIM WHEN HE SHOWS UP.

ALL YOUR DEATHS COULD END UP ON MY CONSCIENCE. IT'LL BE ALL MY FAULT.

STOP DOING THAT. WHEN YOU SAY IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, YOU MAKE IT ABOUT ***YOU.*** YOU TAKE AWAY EVERYBODY ELSE'S CHOICES. WE'RE NOT ***REFLECTIONS*** OF YOU.

WE'RE TRYING TO BE ***HEROES.*** AND OUR EXECUTIVE DECISION IS TO TAKE ON KORVAC ***ALONE*** IF WE HAVE TO.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, TONY. ONCE WE GET THROUGH THIS, WE'LL COME FIND YOU.

AND TURN YOUR MEDICINE GOVERNOR BACK ON BEFORE WE ALL LOSE YOU *PERMANENTLY.*

WE'RE ANCHORED *TWO HUNDRED KLICKS* OUT FROM THE WORLDSHIP. SO WHAT'S THE NEXT MOVE?

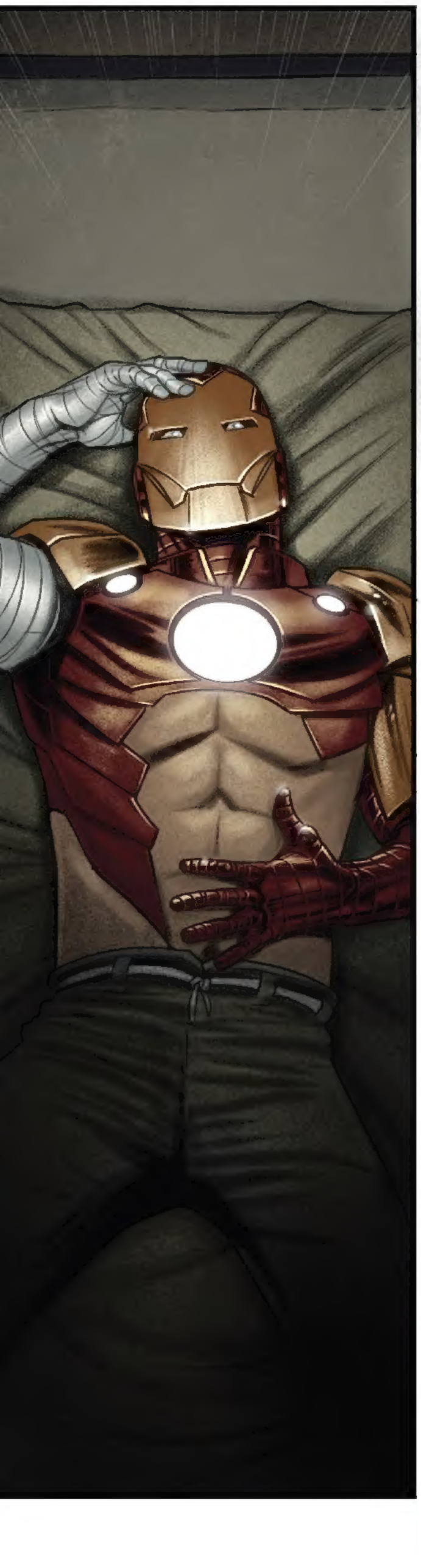
WE'RE *ON OUR OWN.*

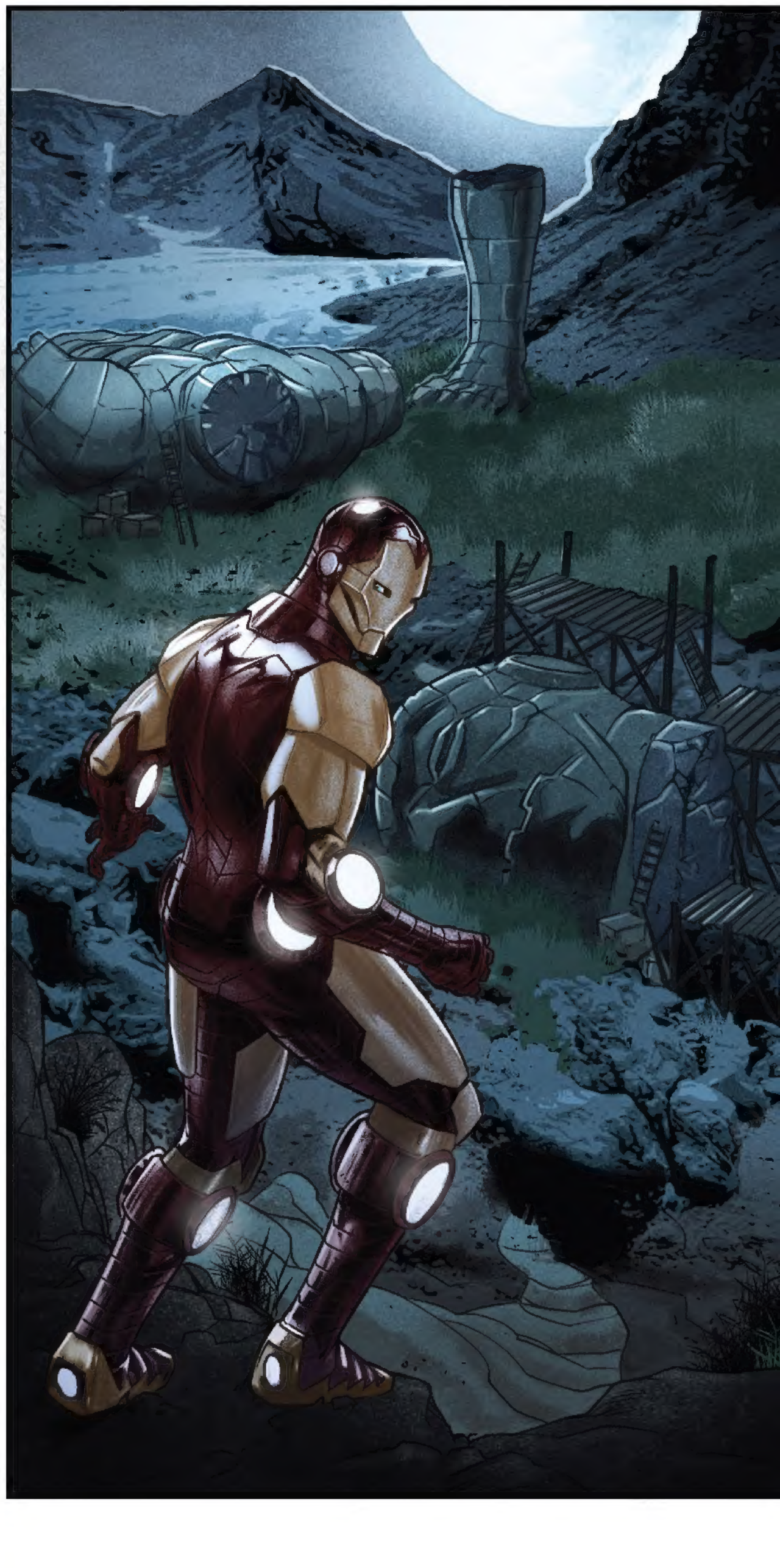
THIS *ALREADY* FELT LIKE A SUICIDE MISSION...

WE HAVE *NO IDEA* WHERE HE IS? *NO* WAY TO GET HIM?

EVEN IF WE COULD... HE'S IN *NO SHAPE* TO DO THIS. *TRUST* ME.

IT'S *JUST US.* SO, I GUESS LET'S TRY TO *SAVE THE UNIVERSE.*





I TOLD YOU THIS ULTIMO WRECK WAS OFF-LIMITS, TONY.

MAY I ASK WHY IT'S OFF-LIMITS? DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHY IT'S OFF-LIMITS?

WILBUR'S BEEN THROUGH A HALF-DOZEN OF THESE THINGS, EH? IT'S A WASTE OF TIME OTHER THAN THE POWER STORAGE.

AH, SO IT'S WILBUR WHO SAYS IT'S OFF-LIMITS--

WEET-

CHOOWWW

YOU'RE NOT IN CHARGE OF THIS COLONY, TONY.

YOU'RE NOT IN CHARGE OF ANYTHING.

OKAY, WELL, I'M GONNA HAVE TO PULL MY PUNCHES BECAUSE OTHERWISE I'LL KILL YOU.

GOTTA GET CLOSE ENOUGH, EH?

SMASH

AGK!

WHAT ARE YOU PROTECTING?

WNNNGCH

WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?

CRNGSCH

I KNOW THESE THINGS ARE *DANGEROUS* ENOUGH THAT WE DON'T WANT ANYONE MESSING WITH THEM...

"WE"? YOU AND WILBUR?

I DO WHAT HE SAYS. HE *OVERSEES* THE COLONY, HE KEEPS IT *GOING*...

WHAT ELSE DOES HE TELL YOU TO DO?

JUST-- *PROTECT* THIS PLACE! NOT LET... ANYTHING--ANY*ONE*-- UPSET THE *BALANCE!*

UPSET THE BALANCE?

HE SAID... IT'S... FRAGILE...

WRENCH

FIND SOMETHING...?

I'M NOT THAT FAMILIAR WITH COMPUTERS BUILT BEYOND THE LAST MILLENNIUM...BUT THIS ONE HAS AN I.R. REMOTE CONTROL CIRCUIT GRAFTED TO IT. SILICON CHIPS, TIN SOLDER...

"VERY RECENT WORK."

PZSEEW PCMFFFSH

TONY, COLIN... DID YOU TRY *KNOCKING* FIRST? MAYBE I WAS *DISTRACTED* AND DIDN'T HEAR IT.

I'VE BEEN DOING SOME BETA TESTS ON THE RESCUE SIGNAL.

LIKE HELL YOU ARE.

THE *ULTIMOS*. THEY'RE BEING CONTROLLED *REMOTELY*.

LIKELY BY THE *SINGULARITY* THAT'S BUILDING THEM--

A SENTIENT SINGULARITY DOESN'T SHOP AT RADIO-SHACK.

ARE YOU *ACCUSING* ME OF SOMETHING?

YEAH. *MURDER*.

THIS IS MY *HOME*, TONY. AND I'M STARTING TO THINK YOU SHOULD *LEAVE*.

*RIGHT. PERHAPS **HORIZONTALLY**, LIKE THE OTHER COLONISTS WHO'VE GOTTEN IN THE WAY.*

*HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO US? WE **TRUSTED** YOU!*

NEITHER OF YOU UNDERSTAND A *DAMN THING*. DO YOU?

THE *ULTIMOS*-- THEY'RE PART OF THE *ECOSYSTEM*. JUST LIKE *EVERYTHING ELSE* HERE.

*WHAT DO YOU MEAN? **PROTECTED** LIKE WILDLIFE? BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY **GAZELLES**.*

GOOD GOD, STARK, OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE *GRAND EXPERIMENT*. THE EXPERIMENT THAT'S *WORKING*.

KNNNNSSNKCH

I'D HAD *ENOUGH* OF EVERYTHING BACK HOME. BEING CONSTANTLY *HUMILIATED* WHEN ALL I WANTED WAS A *STAKE* IN SOMETHING.

SO I CAME HERE WITH A PLAN. I WANTED TO SHOW THAT I COULD BE A *LEADER*. CREATE SOMETHING *GOOD*. AND I *DID*.

YOUR LITTLE... TERRARIUM...HAS... SOME FLAWS...

NOT FLAWS. *BALANCE*. THE *INTERFERENCE BEAM* BROUGHT YOU ALL HERE ONE BY ONE. I JUST PRETENDED AS IF THE *SAME THING* HAD HAPPENED TO ME. THAT WAY WE WERE ALL IN IT *TOGETHER*. FIGHTING FOR *SURVIVAL*. *BONDING*.

YOU... BROUGHT US HERE...?

OF COURSE, COLIN. AND I GAVE YOU WHAT YOU *ALL* WANTED. SOMEWHERE THAT WAS *JUST* YOUR OWN. WHERE YOU COULD *LET GO* OF WHAT YOU WERE BEFORE. LIVE *NOW*, WITH OTHERS.

QUEAESTCHKCH!

THEN WHY THE ULTIMOS? WHY KILL OFF YOUR LOYAL SUBJECTS?

KCHINK

CLTNK

THE ONES WHO LIVED HERE BEFORE, *THEY* CREATED THE ULTIMOS. THE ULTIMOS *DESTROYED* THEM. ROAMED *FREE*. BUT I LEARNED HOW TO *REPROGRAM* THEM.

ZREEOF ZREEOF ZREEOF

FTSCHK!

AAAGH!

CREEKKK

WHY REPROGRAM THEM? WHY USE THEM TO KILL?

BECAUSE...

KNNFF

...I COULDN'T...LET THE COLONY GROW TOO *BIG*... I MIGHT LOSE *LEADERSHIP*... *CONTROL*. SO I KEPT IT SMALL...

...AND WITH... A *THREAT*...ALWAYS LOOMING...THERE'D BE NO... *INFIGHTING*...*ARGUING*... *FACTIONS*... *ANY OF IT*...

JUST...PEACE... *HAPPINESS*.

WHEN I HEARD THE S.O.S. SIGNAL FROM YOUR SHIP...I *HAD* TO BRING YOU, TONY... IT WAS RISKY, BUT I *HAD* TO SHOW YOU... THAT I COULD...*LEAD*...SOMETHING... PURE.

IT'S NOT PURE, WILBUR. IT'S SICK. AND SAD.

AND...FROM WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE... PRETTY DANG *INFURIATING*.

NO. DON'T DO THIS.

LET'S ALL REMAIN CALM--

YYYYAAAAAAAAHHHH!

PLEASE! NO!

I LOVE YOU ALL! I LOVE ALL OF YOU!

COLIN, WHAT IF THEY--?

THIS IS A *SOCIETY* AND *THEIR* INJUSTICE. YOU HAVE TO *TRUST* THEM TO DEAL WITH IT HOW *THEY* BEST SEE FIT.

I WON'T LET THEM KILL HIM.

THESE ARE GOOD PEOPLE. THERE'S ALREADY BEEN TOO MUCH DEATH. THEY KNOW THAT.

FLEEAAZSSZHOO

HOLY GEEZ--

OH BOY.

I DIDN'T REALIZE THE LIVING TRIBUNAL KNEW MY FULL NAME... SEEMS BAD...

TONY STARK.

THE UNIVERSE IS ON THE VERGE OF CATASTROPHIC IMBALANCE. ONLY YOU CAN RESTORE THIS BALANCE. YOU MUST TRAVEL TO THE WORLDSHIP OF GALACTUS AT THIS VERY MOMENT.

RIGHT, YEAH, KORVAC. HE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS ANDROID NAMED KORVAC--WHO WANTS THE POWER COSMIC--

ANYWAY, IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOTTA GO...

SO, UH...FROM WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME, MY FRIENDS WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP KORVAC ON THEIR OWN. I HAVE TO DO IT.

I'LL GO, BUT ONLY IF YOU SEND ALL THE PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET HOME.

YOU GRAVELY MISUNDERSTAND MY WORDS, BUT YOU STILL MUST LEAVE NOW.

VERY WELL.

LET ME COME WITH YOU INSTEAD. SOUNDS LIKE YOU NEED ALL THE HELP YOU CAN **GET.**

YOU **SURE?** I DON'T KNOW IF ANY OF US ARE **COMING BACK** FROM THIS--

I'M IN. I MEAN, WHAT ELSE AM I DOIN', *EH?*

FLEEAAZSSZHOOO

...WAS THAT IT?

ARE WE ON *TAA-II?*

JUDGING BY THE **SIZE** OF THIS PLACE...I'D SAY **YES.**

AND...**LUCKY US,** PERHAPS...I THINK WE'RE ENTIRELY **ALONE...** NO **KORVAC.** AND NO FLYING PURPLE **PLANET-EATER...**

INTRUDER ALERT. INTRUDER ALERT.

BUT I THINK WE JUST ACTIVATED HIS **DEFENSE SYSTEMS...**

TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT

IRON MAN NOW STANDS ON THE DECK OF GALACTUS' WORLDSHIP IN DEEP SPACE. TONY STARK MUST CONFRONT HIS FIERCEST FOE IN RECENT MEMORY: KORVAC. TONY MUST ALSO FACE THE MAD ANDROID'S ZEALOUS DISCIPLES--THE CONTROLLER, UNICORN, BLIZZARD AND THE ORIGINAL HUMAN TORCH. THIS SHOWDOWN HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING, BUT TONY WASN'T COUNTING ON FIVE-TO-ONE ODDS...

ZONE